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854 Fathers are also seen handling and playing with babies, and often refer to their young offspring with pride. Despite these patterns of good infant care and unstinted attention to the [865] baby, occasional instances were observed where mothers slapped or roughly shook restless and fretful year old babies.

856 Unless the expected course of maturation fails to appear, parents manifest only casual interest in promoting an infant's development. Occasionally a mother will seek to support a young baby in an upright position. Only once were parents seen walking while supporting a fifteen month old between them. The removal of the half-year old child from the baby pack or from tightly bound blankets also affords the child an opportunity to develop through exercise. While the appearance of the first teeth is noted by parents, little attention is focussed on this phase of development. No attempt is made to discourage finger sucking nor is this behavior much manifested by babies. Attitudes toward infantile sexuality were not observed or reported. In its early years, of course, a baby, being closely bound and heavily diapered, has little opportunity to explore its genitals.

Childhood

856 The transition from infancy to childhood among the Kaska is informally recognized as occurring at between three and four years of age, when the child becomes "half smart." As is customary in child study, we shall anticipate this transition somewhat and refer to childhood as that period of life which follows shortly after the infant has taken its first steps and which terminates with the onset of puberty.

863 Although the first attention to sphincter control comes between one and two years of age, it is never harshly introduced at this time nor is it seriously expected to take hold so early. At that time, especially if it is summer, diaper cloths are abandoned and the mother begins to take the child with her when she goes into the bush for her own needs. Verbal explanation and encouragement are little used while the child is so young. As explained by one mother of six children, the toddler is expected to wet himself. "That time he wet his pants. Pretty soon I take him to toilet. Pretty soon he tell me." Scolding was denied. "I never say nothing. He learn himself." In summer the eighteen month to two year old child is allowed to play without pants or with pants (or bloomers) in which a long slit has been cut in the crotch. This device permits him to eliminate without soiling his clothes. Another practice is to don the child's moccasins as soon as he wakes in the morning and send him outside the house to urinate. Ideally parents also recognize the advantage of preventing the youngster from drinking any liquids during the hours immediately preceding bedtime.

No serious notice is taken of wetting or soiling before two and a half or three years of age. Even four years is sometimes tolerantly regarded as too early an age at which to demand complete cleanliness training, and often children continue to wet at night until this age. Generally, however, the child is expected to be trained at three and from then on begins to be scolded for daytime failures. "Look you dirty boy," Dorothy Plover said to three year old David before she changed him, "You dirty your pants." Some parents also introduce spanking at this time to enforce sphincter control. When enuresis occurs in older children, the sleeping place of the child may be padded with moss which is discarded every morning. Together with learning habits of sphincter control, the child also acquires certain attitudes

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in heaters even when green. Balsam is found in high mountains on rocky soil. The wood is good for fuel when dry and is easy to chop. The brush is particularly comfortable, its softness being compared to silk. People also regard the odor of balsam brush as highly pleasant.

Miscellaneous. Cosmic phenomena have stimulated relatively little speculative thinking among the Kaska. There is, for example, no clear idea if the moon and sun are male or female. Nitla had once vaguely heard that in May the moon is a woman. This may be a reflection of the Catholic belief regarding May as the month dedicated the Virgin Mary. There are no ideas of the moon affecting human behavior. The big August moon is a sign that game is fat but the planet itself does not influence the growth of game. Eclipses are noted with wonder but no interpretation of their cause or function could be obtained.[9]

Some men, notably Old Man and River Joe, possess a good knowledge of hydrographic phenomena, like the ability to "read water," which has been derived from long experience working on traders' river boats. It is widely recognized that rivers like the Liard, which rise in mountains, freeze quickly. On the other hand, rivers like the Frances and Dease, which have their sources in large lakes, take longer to ice over. People desire river ice to form quickly, as this assures a smooth surface that is ideal for toboggan travel. In hauling wood on sleighs and toboggans, the vehicles are often run on the smooth shore ice of rivers.

Directions are not related to the cardinal points and few Indians could indicate north or south. References to direction are generally by the courses of rivers or by known landmarks identified with place names.

HUMAN ORGANISM

In this section are reported knowledge and attitudes concerning the structure and functioning of the human body as well as information, based on reports, observation, and clinical testing, regarding socially patterned psychological processes. It is obvious that some of the data consists of popular, scarcely formalized beliefs, which may vary considerably between different individuals, especially between members of different tribal districts. Some of the ideas may be survivals of aboriginal conceptions. These, however, in contemporary Kaska thought are associated with attitudes which have undoubtedly been acquired from missionaries and other white men. As in the case of religion, no attempt has been made to classify aboriginal retentions apart from introduced ideas, our purpose being to describe the content of knowledge regardless of its sources.

Bodily Structure and Function

The pattern of human growth is compared to the development of other aspects of nature. "Anything in the ground he grow. Soon big grow; no more he grow. Injun just the same." Growth of the body is a function of bone development. Girls mature more rapidly than boys.

Weather, food, and heredity are the principal factors determining the growth process. Summer is a more favorable period for human development than winter, so again it would seem as though the organism is viewed as developing in harmony with the rest of the

[9] Nitla remembered an eclipse of the moon which he had witnessed two years previously. He still recalls the phenomena with wonder. See his autobiographical sketch below, p. 372.

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§25 §27 natural environment. Food is a stimulus to growth, and grub a better aid to development than straight meat. Because of the role of hereditary factors, children come to resemble their parents in height as well as appearance. The cycle of bodily growth is thought to be most intense before the age of fifteen, when it may be hindered by sexual activity. In maturity, sexual intercourse promotes the rapid growth of a girl's breasts. During early childhood, fevers, elbows or knees may also retard a child's development, while accidents to the head are feared because they lead to an arrest of growth. Following physiological maturity, excessive sexual indulgence is thought to lead to rapid and early aging. In old age the growth process in both sexes partially reverses itself. Speaking of an aged person Nishi said: "He grew back again pretty soon." Seven stages of growth are popularly recognized. These are:

[83]

Baby (or not smart)	Up to about the age of three
Half smart	From about three to seven
Enough smart	From about seven to twelve
Half big	From about twelve to seventeen
Enough big	Adult
Half old	An adult with grown children
Old	Over fifty but depending on the individual's children

§26 The ideal proportions for the human body were defined by Nishi as moderate: "Half pretty big, pretty good." There is some evidence that small men are sometimes sensitive about their stature. For example, it was reported that while drunk Skipper once offered to fight when another man referred to him as a "little man."

§26 §27 Human blood may be strong or weak, the quality, as well as the actual blood itself, being derived from the parents. Weak blood leads to illness and debility but may to some extent be strengthened by a diet containing sufficient meat. Food in general renews the blood. Exercise has a tonic effect on the blood, making it "work." The circulatory system is visualized as continuous throughout the body, the blood even passing through such extremities as the little finger. By tying a line tightly around the tip of this finger, the circulation of the blood may be arrested.

§26 The body hair serves to retain warmth. The eyelashes are an aid to indoor sleep; their removal may also lead to frequent tears. One informant had heard of a man who had lost his eyelashes and began to shed copious tears, without, however, suffering from insomnia. The absence of the eyebrows is regarded as extremely grotesque.

§26 §27 Concerning the head and features, children, as already mentioned, are believed to inherit the facial characteristics of the like sexed parent; a boy comes to resemble his father, a girl her mother. The most important parts of the head are the ear, nose, mouth, and brain. Within the ear is a tube connecting the outer to the inner portion of that organ and between these two divisions is a thin diaphragm which registers sound. The nose is both an organ of smell and an adjunct of breathing, serving as a channel for the expulsion of the air taken into the lungs through the mouth. The mouth functions in taste, breathing, and the ingestion of food. The teeth are necessary to chew food preparatory to swallowing. Their principal constituent is bone, and the exposed portion is believed to be softer than the part which is contained within the gums. The loss of the milk teeth occurs in childhood after they have been "worn out." In the adult, however, wear results merely in shortening the